GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS
LOK SABHA

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:5210
ANSWERED ON:14.05.2007
BHOPAL GAS TRAGEDY
Pandey Dr. Laxminarayan;Pateriya Smt. Neeta;Tripathi Shri Chandramani

Will the Minister of CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government has decided to close the payment to the claimant for compensation of 14 thousand people affected by the Bhopal Gas Tragedy ;

(b) if so, the reasons therefor ;

(c) the total number of applications for compensation received in this regard ;

(d) the number of claims which have been settled by the Government alongwith the amount paid so far; and

(e) the time by which the remaining claims are likely to be settled ?

Answer

MINISTER OF STATE FOR CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS AND MINISTER OF STATE FOR PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS (SHRI B.K. HANDIQUE)

(a)&(b): No, the work related to distribution of original and pro-rata compensation to the victims of the Bhopa! Gas Leak Disaster in compliance with the orders of the Supreme Court is continuing. The distribution of pro-rata compensation to the victims of the Bhopal Gas Leak Disaster which was to be completed by 30th April,2006 as per directions of the Supreme Court had almost been completed by that date by the Office of the Welfare Commissioner, Bhopal Gas Victims. However, an application in respect of the nearly 31,000 absentees claimants had been filed by the Office of the Welfare Commissioner in the Supreme Court on 15th February,2006 for treating all such cases as closed. The matter came up for hearing in the Supreme Court on 23rd August,2006, wherein the Court directed the Office of the Welfare Commissioner, Bhopal Gas Victims to supply a list of the persons, whose cases are sought to be closed, to the NGOs- Bhopal Group for Information and Action, Bhopal Gas Peedith Sangharsh Sahayog Samiti and Bhopal Gas Peedith Mahila Udyog Sangathan, so that , these NGOs can make such efforts to trace these persons.The case is still pending in the Supreme Court.

(c)to(e): The process of distribution of compensation started in 1992 and 10,29,517 cases were registered for compensation. All the cases have since been settled. Compensation has been awarded in 5,74,327 cases which were found to be eligible by the Welfare Commissioner who is a sitting judge of the Madhya Pradesh High Court. An amount of Rs. 1548.27 crores has been awarded to these 5,74,327 claimants as original compensation and out of this Rs.1546.32 crores have been disbursed to 5,73,580 claimants, till 31.3.2007. In compliance with the orders of the Supreme Court dated 19.7.2004 and 26.10.2004, the office of the Welfare Commissioner has disbursed a pro-rata compensation in the ratio of 1:1 to all those claimants, whose claims (originai) had been settled, amounting to Rs. 1499,69 crores amongst 5,59,871 claimants, up to 30.4.2007. The process of disbursal of pro-rata compensation started on 15.11.2004 and is still continuing.